

9-17-2018

## 1871 - Report to the California Surveyor General from W. V. McGarvey, Monterey County Assessor

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## MERCED COUNTY.

A. M. HICKS

County Assessor.

SNELLING, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1871.

Hon. JOHN W. BOST,  
Surveyor-General:

SIR: In making my report to you, I forgot to mention a very important matter connected with the agricultural interests of this county and State. I hereby officially report to you one hundred acres of cotton, planted by J. M. Strong, on the old Gwin Ranch, which bids fair to produce a most excellent crop, notwithstanding the unfavorable spring. It is as fine a field of cotton as can be seen in any country, and old cotton raisers tell me that they never saw a field of cotton in their lives which promised as heavy a yield as this one. Should this field open well, the cotton experiment in this portion of California is a grand success, and the beneficial results to this State can hardly be estimated.

There are thousands of acres of land in this county that will produce cotton, and there is no doubt that it can be tented here with one-half of the labor required in the Cotton States.

Please give this item a notice in your report to the Legislature.

I am, very respectfully, yours, etc.,

A. M. HICKS,  
County Assessor of Merced County, Cal.

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## MONTEREY COUNTY.

W. V. McGARVEY

County Assessor.

ASSESSORS' OFFICE, Monterey County.

Hon. JOHN W. BOST,  
Surveyor-General:

SIR: I herewith inclose the blank furnished to this office for the statistical returns of the year ending January first, eighteen hundred and seventy-one; showing an increase of eleven thousand four hundred and eighty acres of land put under cultivation since the year previous. The crops, however, have been light, owing to lack of timely rains, presence of rust in some instances, and other drawbacks. Wheat has not

averaged over sixteen bushels to the acre, and barley has not yielded more than twenty-seven. Decidedly the year has not been favorable to agriculture, and although the present year has been equally bad, on account of the drought, the wheat crop will far exceed that of eighteen hundred and seventy.

Early ploughing has been resorted to, but in many instances has proved to be but a small improvement. The light yield of cereals is attributed by some to shallow ploughing, and this may be the case in some localities, but it is generally admitted that certain kinds of land not tilled before requires a gradual upturning of the subsoil.

Flax and hops have been tried to some extent, and at first promised well, particularly this spring, but are now considered a failure; the former, I believe, will never be cultivated on a large scale, the same being to a high degree detrimental and exhaustive to the soil, so much, that it is spoken of among land owners that no new lease of land will be made without the insertion of a clause prohibiting the culture of flax.

The rest of the products have generally yielded a light crop. Fruit has also been below the average.

In eighteen hundred and seventy there were in this county but two distilleries on a small scale, producing an insignificant quantity of wine and brandy. This year a large distillery has been erected.

Live stock of all description has an increase over the year eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, and has, on the whole, thrived well. Some apprehensions are entertained for this fall, particularly for the sheep, on account of the scarcity of grass.

During the present year, a railroad has been put in process of construction; at present, about fifteen miles of rail are laid. This will be a matter for report next year.

By the statistical sheet, I see the value of assessed property for the year eighteen hundred and seventy-one is required, and believe this to be an error, because, the subsequent assessments not being made as yet, it would be impossible for me to give the exact amount assessed for the whole fiscal year, and I have therefore set down in said sheet the total assessed value of the different kinds of property for the year eighteen hundred and seventy, which I think is required. Should, however, the assessed value of property for eighteen hundred and seventy-one be likewise required, I give the same below, as it stands before correction by the Board of Equalization, and before the making of the subsequent assessments – to wit:

Real estate	.	\$2,208,194 89
Improvements		393,680 00
Personal property	..	1,510,405 25

Respectfully submitting the same, I remain,

Your obedient servant,

W. V. McGARVEY,  
Assessor, Monterey County.

By J. KUURDS, Deputy.